

## WELCOME BACK TO SCHOOL

Dear Parents, Carers and Children,  
I hope you have all had a great summer break. It has been lovely to welcome the children back to school this week all looking so smart and smiley. I would like to take this opportunity to introduce myself as Damson Wood's new Headteacher. It has been lovely to meet so many of you this week and I look forward to meeting many more of you in school on **Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September at 5.00pm** when you are invited to come and find out more about your child's curriculum for this coming year and how you can support them at home.  
Have a restful weekend ready for next week's first full week of the term.

Ms S Stevens, Headteacher

### Reading Information Session

**Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 2.30pm**

Next Tuesday, we invite all parents and carers a chance to find out more about how we teach children how to read at Damson Wood. This session will be led by our Reading Lead, Mrs Wright, and will introduce you to phonics and the Little Wandle scheme, as well as giving you ideas for how you can support your child at home. This session will be best suited to parents/carers of children in Reception & Year 1 but all are welcome.

### Meet the TEACHER

#### Headteacher's Welcome & Meet the Teacher

**Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September 2024 – 5:00pm**

On Monday 16<sup>th</sup> September, we are welcoming all parents and carers into school for a valuable information evening. This is a chance for you to find out more about school life, your child's learning and how best to support them at home. The evening will begin with a welcome from Ms Stevens, our new Headteacher, in the hall and will be followed by a chance to 'Meet the teacher' in your child's classroom. Teachers will give you more specific information regarding the upcoming curriculum for your child this school year. These sessions are for all parents and carers and there will be separate presentations for each year group. If you have more than one child in school, we would recommend parents/carers either split up to visit different classes or visit your youngest child's classroom first, followed by your older child.



### School Uniform and Jewellery

It is lovely to see all the children looking so smart in their school uniforms. Please can we remind you that children should wear black school shoes (**not trainers**). PE kit and Forest School kit (including wellies) should be in school from Monday 9<sup>th</sup> September 2024.

Please ensure that **ALL** items are clearly named.

It is also part of our school uniform policy that children do not wear any jewellery to school, with the exception of a watch or items worn for religious reasons. We would prefer children not to wear earrings at all because there is a risk of injury if they get caught. Should you choose to put earrings on your child, they should be very small studs (**not hoops**) and should be covered up with tape.

Thank you for your support.



### Snacks and Water Bottles

Every day in school or nursery, your child is given a piece of fruit for their snack. Therefore, you **do not** need to send your child into school with a snack. If your child has an allergy, intolerance or additional need, please discuss alternative options with your child's class teacher – any dietary requirements **must** be shared with the school office for our records. We will never let children go hungry so we try and provide different fruit options where possible and have a small selection of alternatives if required. Your child should bring a water bottle to school every day – they can bring it in empty (to be filled at one of our water coolers) or full of **water only**. Squash and juice are **not allowed** in water bottles. Thank you.

### Book Bags and Pump Bags

Damson Wood pump bags and book bags are available at the school office for you to purchase, priced at £2.00 and £4.50 respectively. We encourage all children to use these school bags. Please ensure they are clearly named with a **maximum of one** keyring for children to easily identify their belongings. Rucksacks are not appropriate for school as large bags take up too much space on pegs for children to store everything; we ask that they do not come into school.



### Safety and Security of the School Site

Please can you help us to ensure children are safe in school at all times. The play equipment on the school site is only to be used during the school day. Starting next week, please do not allow your child/children to play on the equipment before and after school. The school gates will now be locked at 3:30pm after all children have been collected. Children must also walk their bikes and scooters through the school premises. Thank you.

### SPARKS Values

At Damson Wood, we all share the same ethos and values around the behaviours we expect from everyone in our school community. We explain this to our pupils through our SPARKS values so you can expect to hear your child referring to these values and their matching characters! We teach children what these values look like and give lots of praise for children who are demonstrating them. Every half term, we offer special SPARKS Awards to children who consistently exemplify particular Damson Wood values.

**At Damson Wood, we are all...Safe, Proud, Ambitious, Ready, Kind and Successful.**



	<b>Autumn Term Dates 2024</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Term Commences</b>	Monday 2 September 2024 (Children start Wednesday 4 September 2024)	Monday 2 September Tuesday 3 September
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 28 October to Friday 1 November 2024	
<b>Term Ends</b>	Friday 20 December 2024	
	<b>Spring Term Dates 2025</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Term Commences</b>	Monday 6 January 2025	
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 17 February to Friday 21 February 2025	
<b>Term Ends</b>	Friday 11 April 2025	
	<b>Summer Term Dates 2025</b>	<b>Inset Day</b>
<b>Term Commences</b>	Monday 28 April 2025	
<b>Half Term</b>	Monday 26 May to Friday 30 May 2025	
<b>Term Ends</b>	Friday 18 July 2025	Friday 4 July 2025

*This newsletter is printed in colour for children to read in their classrooms thanks to SHARP.*